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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Buenos Aires, Argentina

September 29, 1978

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

Mr. James Bumpus (ARA/ECA)
Ms. Roberta Cohen (HA/HR)
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jim and Roberta:

Just a short note for the record. The FBIS report of August 31 carried an eye opening AFP story from Paris (attached). The first sentence stated "the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights and the Communist Party of Argentina expressed their concern here today over the disappearance and kidnappings of their members. The PCA submitted a document . . ."

I raised the story with Emilio Mignone. He assured me that the Assembly had never issued a joint statement with the PCA (nor any other political party). He suggested that the AFP article combined separate statements sent by the Assembly and the PCA regarding human rights questions into one misleading presentation. I just received a copy of the PCA's press statement which verifies Mignone's comments. The PCA document lists some 102 PCA members who have disappeared in Argentina since the coup and asks government support in locating them. There is no mention of the Assembly. (The Assembly's latest (and strongest) statement is also enclosed FYI.)

Best regards,

Cheers,

Department of State, A/GIS/PS/SRP

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F. Allen Harris
First Secretary

Enclosures.

As stated

P.S. We have added almost a thousand disappeareds to our files in the last eight weeks--mostly '77 and '76 cases. New disappearances are down, but the old cases are leap-ing out of their closets.

cc: Ambassador Castro

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Attachment in file but not copied

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